

News from NKU...

Friday – Oct. 9, 2010
For immediate release...

Kentucky Receives \$900,000 AmeriCorps Grant for New College Coaches Program

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. – Kentucky Campus Compact, in partnership with Berea College, has been awarded an AmeriCorps grant of \$908,000 annually for up to three years to develop the Kentucky College Coaches Program.

The grant was awarded by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service with federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Coaches program will place 65 full-time and 19 part-time recent college graduates in over 70 high schools and area technology centers statewide to help students plan and prepare for college.

“Many students have the ability or desire to go to college but don’t know how to navigate the applications and admissions process,” said James Votruba, chair of Kentucky Campus Compact and president of Northern Kentucky University, the fiscal agent for the grant. “This program will provide students with role models who can help make their college dreams a reality, especially if there are financial or cultural barriers to overcome.”

Each college coach is assigned to a high school or area technology center where they will be supervised by a guidance counselor or other school personnel. College coaches will provide intensive mentoring and academic advising to a cohort of 50 high school students and will coordinate school-wide financial aid workshops, campus visits, and parent nights. High schools with a college-going rate below the state average of 66 percent or that are underserved by existing college access programs were selected to participate. The college coaches will begin their service on November 1.

The idea for the program grew out of a recommendation last January from the Governor’s Higher Education Task Force, which called for the creation of a “near peer” college mentoring program similar to the National College Advising Corps. That organization aims to improve high school graduation and college-going rates, as well as students’ social, academic, and financial preparation for college.

Bob King, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, said the program underscores the importance of postsecondary and secondary partnerships in increasing student success. “A generation ago,

young people could find jobs that paid a living wage right out of high school, but these jobs are rapidly disappearing,” said King. “High school graduates will need postsecondary education or training to compete in a global economy. This program will strengthen Kentucky’s college-going culture and help more students succeed.”

Seven colleges and universities—Berea College, Kentucky State University, Lindsey Wilson College, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, Union College, and University of Kentucky — as well as the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), the Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development and GEAR UP Kentucky are serving as hosts to the program. Hosts provide a cash match and staff support for coaches and serve as the liaison with high schools and area technology centers. Berea College is training the coaches and collaborating with all the partners to develop the program curriculum.

Eventually, state leaders hope to secure funding to expand the College Coaches Program to every high school in Kentucky. For additional information or to learn how to become a college coach, contact Gayle Hilleke, executive director of Kentucky Campus Compact or visit <http://kycompact.nku.edu/programs/kcc>.

NKU

For more information, contact Gayle A. Hilleke at (859) 572-7634 hillekegl@nku.edu.

High schools and Area Technology Centers already committed to hosting a College Coach

1. Barren Co. High
2. Bath Co. High
3. Bracken Co. High
4. Breathitt High
5. Breckinridge Co. ATC
6. Buckhorn High
7. Caldwell Co. ATC
8. Carroll Co. ATC
9. Casey Co. ATC
10. Casey Co. High
11. Clay Co. High
12. East Carter High
13. Edmonson Co. High
14. Estill Co. High
15. Fayette Co – Bates Creek High School
16. Frankfort High
17. Franklin Co High
18. Franklin-Simpson High
19. Fulton Co. ATC
20. Grayson Co. High
21. Harlan Co. High
22. Henry Co. High
23. Hopkinsville High
24. Jackson Co. High
25. Jefferson Co, Valley Traditional
26. Jefferson Co., Waggner Traditional High
27. Kenton Co, J.D. Patton ATC
28. Kenton Co,Holmes High
29. Knox Co., Lynn Camp High
30. Lee Co. High
31. Leslie Co. High

32. Letcher Co, Jenkins High
33. Lewis Co High
34. Logan Co. High
35. Lyon Co High
36. Marion Co. High
37. Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC
38. McCreary Co. High
39. Mead Co. High
40. Meade Co. ATC
41. Monroe Co. ATC
42. Nelson Co. ATC
43. Owensboro High
44. Owsley Co. High
45. Pendleton Co. High
46. Powell Co. High
47. Shelby Co. ATC
48. South Floyd High
49. Spencer Co. High
50. Union Co High
51. Wolfe County High

Christopher L. Cole, Esq. ('99, '04, '09)
Leadership Northern Kentucky, Class of 2011
Director of Media Relations and Communications
Northern Kentucky University
O - (859) 572-6574
C - (859) 750-0289
H - (859) 781-1842

Follow NKU news on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/NKU_News.